

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 SPM-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 272354Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4020

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PROPOSED \$15 MILLION SPTF PROJECT (\$13.5 MILLION MEXICAN PESOS GRANT PLUS \$1.5 MILLION FROM FSO DOLLARS) TO THE SERVICIOS MEDICO-SOCIALES (SMS) DEL HOSPITAL DE JESUS FOR LOW-COST PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE, INTEGRATED RURAL HEALTH CARE, AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES.

REF: A UNN

1. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH THE GREAT NEED IN MEXICO OF AN EFFECTIVE RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM, INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING. RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GOM PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT THE SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH INTENDS TO EXPAND ITS RURAL HEALTH FACILITIES BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF "CASAS DE SALUD" OR RURAL MEDICAL AID STATIONS IN EACH OF THE 12,500 COMMUNITIES OF BETWEEN 500 AND 2,500 INHABITANTS. THESE CASAS DE SALUD WOULD BE LINKED TO THE 1,500 CLASS C CLINICS NOW SERVING LARGER SEMI-URBAN CENTERS. SIMILARLY, THE DIRECTOR OF THE GOM'S RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD PROGRAM PLANS TO PROVIDE FAMILY PLANNING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DOCTORS DOING THEIR ONE YEAR OBLIGATORY SOCIAL SERVICE ("PASANTES") WHO WILL STAFF THE CASAS DE SALUD.

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2. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, PLUS THE US\$16 MILLION FIVE YEAR FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM OF THE GOM WHICH MAY BE FUNDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES, (MEXICO A-384) THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE SUBJECT PROPOSAL BE CONSIDERED WITHIN THIS OVERALL CONTEXT, AND THAT THE IDB COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH THE GOM TO AVOID DUPLICATION. SPECIFICALLY, THE PROJECT SUMMARY NOTES THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PRESIDENCY. IN EMBASSY VIEW, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT IT ALSO HAVE THE FULL, OPEN AND COORDINATED SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH.

3. EMBASSY HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT THE POPULATION COUNCIL HAD EARLIER BEEN APPROACHED FOR FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT; THAT THEY DECLINED AFTER A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INDICATED THAT THE COSTS TO THE PATIENTS MIGHT IN FACT BE HIGHER THAN PROJECT PROPOSERS INDICATED. THE IDB SHOULD, THEREFORE, THOROUGHLY ANALYZE THE ACCURACY AND REALITIES OF PROJECTED PATIENT FEES BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER.

4. THE PROJECT SUMMARY ALSO LISTS ONE OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES AS "LOWER THE BIRTH RATE THROUGH AN ACTIVE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM". THIS WOULD REQUIRE COORDINATION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE GOM'S RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD PROGRAM, AND POSSIBLY APPROVAL BY THE GOM'S NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL. FURTHER COMPLICATIONS COULD ARISE THROUGH THE POSSIBLE CHURCH AFFILIATION OF THE HOSPITAL DE JESUS.

5. IN ADDITION TO OTHER CONCERNS WE BELIEVE DECISION TO PROCEED WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT OTHER PROJECTS WERE REDUCED OR CANCELLED TO PERMIT FUNDING OF THIS PROJECT.

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